

them or so to speak. contains them.
 But Life
 is distributed amongst plants and
 animals that
 are separated from one another by
 lifeless space.
 Each individual experiences an
 environment of
 its own : lives its own life which
 differs. if by
 ever so little from that of other
 individuals of
 the same species. Connected with
 other indivi-
 duals by descent. it shares their
 instincts : but it is
 itself a separate focus of life which is
 capable of
 evolving new developments. Its
 isolation enables
 it to concentrate the vague feeling of
 awareness
 which arises in sensitive cells that are
 touched
 by an impression. Consciousness
 springs from the
 convergence of these microscopic
 rootlets of
 sensation, and flowers in the marvel of
 self-con-
 scious personality. The independence
 which
 comes from separation fosters the
 development of
 a power of *willin*a—primarily an
 indefinite capri-
 ciousness of choice: in man. however
 fettered by con-
 vention and habit. a faculty of judgment
 by which
 he may follow the good and eschew the
 evil.

It may be hard to believe that the
 lowliest of
 living organisms possess the germs,
 however
 rudimentary. of consciousness.
 personality. and
 will. We can judge of the mind, so to
 speak.
 of these organisms only by observing
 their con-
 duct. and any conclusions must be in
 great
 degree speculative. But there is good
 reason to
 hold that sensation. in however
 humble a form.
 involves a *feeling*, as well as a

recording. and
differs in this respect from such
chemical reactions
as result. for instance, from the
influence of light.
And the directions of instinct. closely
though they
may govern, cannot provide for every
possible
contingency of experience : they must
leave some
scope. however small. for choice—that
is to say.
for the exercise of judgment or of
volition. The
microscopic amoeba displays an
activity which is